

meet the demands of adult life on their own. Only 50 percent earn a high school diploma, barely 3 percent go on to obtain a college degree, and one out of four will experience homelessness at some point in their lives. While we generally recognize adult independence at age 18, children rarely stop needing the stability, support and guidance that families provide. The benefits of being adopted into a loving home extend well into adulthood.

Each year I recognize one South Dakota family as Angels in Adoption in order to highlight the many ways in which exemplary individuals and families across the State have made a positive impact in the lives of children through adoption. I recently had the opportunity to honor Nora and Randy Boesem of Newell, SD, as Angels in Adoption. Nora and Randy have adopted nine children, all of whom are affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and face a range of physical and mental birth defects that occur as a result of alcohol use during pregnancy. In addition to their adopted children, the Boesems have opened their home to nearly 70 children in foster care over the last 10 years.

As a founding member of the bipartisan Congressional Coalition on Adoption, which sponsors Angels in Adoption, I am committed to assisting children in the United States to find stable, loving and permanent homes. Additionally, I support the goals of National Adoption Day, which encourage others to adopt children from foster care, build stronger ties between local adoption agencies, courts and adoption advocacy organizations, and learn more about children waiting to be adopted and the families looking to grow through adoption.

I was proud to support the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 and the recent passage of the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act, which made some of the most important improvements to the foster care and adoption system we have seen in the last 10 years. I am also proud that Members of the Senate continue to support ways to make adoption easier and more affordable. Since the cost of adoption can be very high, we ought to do what we can to minimize this initial burden for the exceptional people who provide caring homes for children. Adoption proceedings and legal fees for some domestic adoptions can cost more than \$40,000. If we ask individuals to care for and adopt children, we must provide some relief from the financial burdens associated with that care. The adoption tax credit is an effective way to help lessen the financial burden families face when adopting a child and I support making the adoption tax credit permanent.

The commitment of adoptive parents in South Dakota and throughout our country to provide children with safe, permanent, and loving homes will, of course, have a positive impact on their

lives. As we celebrate National Adoption Month and National Adoption Day on November 19, 2011, I call on my colleagues to continue finding ways to support the children, parents, and other important players involved in the child welfare system and to work to ensure all children have stable, permanent and loving families.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment numbered 1 of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 394) to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify the jurisdiction of the Federal courts, and for other purposes, and that the House agreed to the amendment numbered 2 of the Senate, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1637. An act to clarify appeal time limits in civil actions to which United States officers or employees are parties.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 3:49 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1637. An act to clarify appeal time limits in civil actions to which United States officers or employees are parties.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REID).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, November 18, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1637. An act to clarify appeal time limits in civil actions to which United States officers employees are parties.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4016. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Market Oversight, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Position Limits for Futures and Swaps" (RIN3038-AD17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4017. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Management of Manufacturing Risk in Major Defense Acquisition Programs" ((RIN0750-AH30)(DFARS Case 2011-AH30)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4018. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Notification Requirements for Awards of Single-Source Task- or Delivery-Order Contracts" ((RIN0750-AG66)(DFARS Case 2009-D036)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4019. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Extension of Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Pilot Program" ((RIN0750-AH44)(DFARS Case 2011-D050)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4020. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Transition to the System for Award Management" ((RIN0750-AH46)(DFARS Case 2011-D053)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4021. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Loren M. Reno, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4022. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HUD Debt Collection: Revisions and Update to the Procedures for the Collection of Claims" (RIN2501-AD36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 16, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4023. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" ((44 CFR Part 67)(Docket No.